

**COMMENT FORM RESPONSES**  
**NPS – AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND OPEN HOUSES**  
**June 9, 10, 11, 2009**  
**New York City**

**The National Monument was designated by Presidential Proclamation in 2006 and conveyed to the NPS.**

**1) How can the National Park Service better preserve and protect the African Burial Ground?**

- Provide security fences to the immediate burial site area
- Presenting the real facts of the history of NYC. Let the facts speak instead of the overlay. Concentrate on inclusion rather than exclusion.
- Inform the general public via internet, newspaper articles, tv programs. PBS might be interested in a proposal via some "big name" folks — Gates, West, et al
- To preserve and protect, this project must first be "properly" funded in order to get the "word out" about the existence of the African Burial Ground National Monument. It must also be encased to avoid vandals of this sacred site. The burial sites seem easily accessible to those who may want to tamper.
- Do this with the care and respect that it more than deserves.
- Continued relationships with our current president, requesting he "re-proclaim" its national monument status and commit funds to ABG/NPS to upkeep and preserve the site at the level of other (DC-based) national monuments
- Because a burial ground means solemnity,
  1. Don't be afraid to coordinate with other groups, esp. DC Smithsonian and African American Museum in Baltimore.
  2. Use material that prevents graffiti and desecration of the space but give free access to the public
- Continue to educate people and to better fund programs the same way other programs the same way other programs for other museums across the country are funded
- Set up a committee to keep watch on what is going on
- Continuous reinforcement of the sanctity of this holy spiritual ground. Allowing no desecrations, etc.
- How to preserve and protect will grow as the public becomes more involved and interested. Presently, the NPS is doing a fine job in their preservation/protection.
- It seems current efforts of communications and community involvement are serving well. Physically on-site, I feel the burial mounds could be better secured but I am certain this is being considered.
- Utilize all forms of community outreach using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology and old fashioned promotional outlets both conventional and nonconventional
- Ensure residential and commercial buildings (i.e. new construction) is not built near the area.
- Government, city, state donations and private donations
- Increase visibility; link to other sites/etc so becomes viewed as essential landmark so unthinkable not to have
- Through education
- Perhaps find a way to protect the remains that are beyond the boundaries of the ABG's current site?
- I don't know very much about conservation/preservation but in terms of providing information to the public re: the site, it might be interesting to have signs/plaques throughout demarcating the full area/ i.e. beyond the monument itself that designates the full area of the historic burial ground. Also, is it possible to acquire protections from the government for the still-interred remains beyond the memorial, even though they're on private land?
- Have more people to attend so they would gain knowledge about the African Burial Ground National Monument for years to come!
- Better direction for visitors; reflective lights at night
- Cameras on for 24 hours, physical security, male and female etc
- I think the NPS is already doing a wonderful job

**The National Monument has had on-going interpretation and education programs. A new visitor center is in the works and will be open in early 2010.**

**2) What do you think about our current programs?**

- Very good
- More attention should be directed to PBS stations, \*build a separate building for our burial grounds artifacts
- Direct, informed presentations like Ranger Doug's are best
- I visited the center for the first time at the beginning of June 2009. It was small in scale with very little information about the cultures of the people who are buried at the site, i.e., their food, cultural customs, language, and religious practices.
- I think the programs are excellent
- I am happy with current programs. I also like the idea (upcoming) to have sidewalk signs to explain the burial ground to passersby.
- They have not been very visible year-round. They need to bring well known visitors for month photo-ops. Ex: Beyonce, Jay-Z, Giants, Kobe, Colin Powell, and all the other "sons and daughters of Africa." Also, Channel 13, colleges and university programs, research
- I live 2 blocks away and was on the community board for decades and really know very little about the site. Outreach hasn't been working for the local area.
- The programs I'm sure are sufficient. However, I would suggest added pressure to see the visitor center done by 2010 not drag on to 2020.
- I think the programs have been educational as well as entertaining. I feel we need more participation from the community.
- I think the programs are meaningful, informative.
- Very informative and educational
- An impressive amount of quality programs have taken place already. I have participated in several of the music/art/interactive offerings that have been offered. Carry on with the great efforts.
- Good programs
- The current programs are extremely educational. I've enjoyed them every time I visited.
- The program offers various cultural exhibits of expression
- Concepts look good but small space so will need events that occur outside center and memorial site too
- From what I've seen of the current program, I feel that it is very good but can be expanded to reflect the hardships of African Americans in this country
- It would be nice to have an updated video, and to make the walking tour easier to access for visitors who may not be able to make reservations a week in advance
- Excellent. It would be great to have more videos (i.e. the one shown at the open house) available for visitors who are especially curious! Also, it would be wonderful to have more information about the library and its resources available to visitors. I've visited several times and until this meeting didn't realize that there was a library at the visitor's center even in its current iteration. Could some of it be digitized? Library could be a great resource for researchers.
- Well, I have brought my daughter to several of the workshops. It was very educational for myself and daughter. The staff were very knowledgeable and friendly, the visit felt like home.
- More publicity in ethnic publications
- I am just now becoming aware of your programs. I think it's wonderful to have outreach. As much as possible to make people aware of this history!
- The new visitor center is needed and will be greatly appreciated
- I enjoy them very much. Poetry and literature reading might also be added, for example, there is the earliest Black Am-poet, Jupiter Hammond, ever to be published and a slave whose poetry would apply. As well as more contemporary poets.

### 3) What suggestions do you have for future programs and visitor experiences?

- Remove high security screenings, which will enable a “visitor friendly” environment
- Symposia; Greater connection with other NPS sites and other NY museums
- Similar to my historical society slavery exhibit, provide a free newspaper that highlights the burial ground experience; include in the new visitors’ center items that vary in cost from a dollar upwards (a sticker could be a dollar)
- Educational program and visitor experiences should include “hands-on” workshops that give attendees a more realistic view of the value of the deceased... How they made clothing, jewelry, ethnic foods, and honored their God(s).
- In addition to the current and future commissioned art and exhibitions, there should be a corner of the exhibition center where the local and national public can see their expressions represented (student essays posted, student artwork posted, elementary & secondary school contests, skilled non-pro photographers who exhibited, etc.); mugs, tote bags, clothing, “miniature” monuments as souvenirs for sale.
- Try to tell the story of the life of the persons buried there. What they did, their languages, country of origin: As done for King Tut, or Pyramids, or Taj Mahal
- I am interested in:
  1. DNA results regarding tribal affiliations of the burial ground ancestors — give a report
  2. interviewing Black New Yorkers whose ancestors lived in NYC at the time of the burial ground. Create a group for genealogical research for Black New Yorkers. Find descendents. A Black genealogy group could help families preserve their history. Have lectures and workshops at the burial ground.
  3. Black scrapbooking classes — encourage families to preserve their photos, stories, and memorabilia
- Involve the local community with newspaper articles — Tribeca Trib or Dorentown Express and contact community board, etc.
- More advertisements, pamphlets, brochures, etc... Empire State Building attracts hundred maybe thousands daily. The African Burial Ground should as well... We should make the ABG more international for the Caribbean and the Motherland itself. It's all connected.
- Have to reenact the lives of the Africans buried at the Burial Ground this was they can better understand what the Africans lives buried there was like.
- Mailing lists to public schools for solicitation of visits/tours; Site visits to schools more emphasized at the beginning of the school year to Region Officials, Principals, etc.
- This should be a part of the school classes from elementary through high school
- Link with NYC visitor programs (ie, citypass, citytours, etc.) and be certain that locals and visitors know how to access the facility. Perhaps a weekend (Fridays and Saturdays) shuttle service could be instituted to run between Harlem (Schomberg, perhaps) — Midtown — Lower Manhattan — Downtown Brooklyn
- A book of teacher written lesson plans from the Teach Institute participants, a hands on archeology activity for primary grades to acclimate them to archeology/anthropology, a section depicting New York life at that time, specifically the life of the slaves or their daily routine/activities
- I would love to expose more youths to the educational programs offered. I lead a mentoring program, which only meets on the weekend. Unfortunately, due to this, they haven't been exposed to the Burial Ground.
- Audio music!
- Need computers that can provide information for many skill levels — children to scientists — in many languages as an exhibit space too limited to probed this breadth of information
- I suggest that contact be made with the schools in the out boroughs, (Queens, etc) in order to spread the word that the museum is available to all. It would be a great educational opportunity for children to learn their history. M Velazquez: 212-312-9036
- Maybe you already do something like this, but maybe to hold public celebration/remembrance/memorial on the anniversary of the re-internment?
- Love the current plan for the visitor's center. The permanent exhibit sounds excellent; I also feel strongly about the importance of the exhibit on current Af-diasporic NY that frequently changes, of the multipurpose room and its implication that dynamic programming will happen here. I wonder if there is space for art work?
- Have more family programs during the month. This would give families more time to bond and experience an educational awakening together.

- Book talk on Afro history; interpretative dance programs; encourage school programs for students.
- Perhaps having programs that tie into other exhibits/museums/site of African and African American History. That would make people outside of the city aware of this site.
- Affairs such as the program you're having today here on the 30 floor.
- Please see above. Contemporary related poems and stories can also be added to programs and printed in your newsletter.

**4) Recognizing that the new visitor center will soon open and be in operation for some period, do you believe that the NPS should consider developing a different facility in the future?**

- If “some period” means a limited period, then most definitely, yes, begin developing a new facility
- Any site where African people encamped should be included as sites to see by visitors to Manhattan
- Yes, the disconnect between the burial site (now with Memorial) is serious problem. The VC as depicted is inadequate.
- Yes an expanded site should be considered in another area of the City if well over a million people visit this monument yearly.
- LOL! So the ancestors/ABG will take back their land from the federal gvt! ☺ If expansion is necessary, any funding should be given for that purpose. Moving to a different site/facility might de-value the significance of ABG at its current site/facility.
- Given the current economy, I think focus should remain with current projects; get them up and running into mainstream NY – attractions, then can move to Phase II
- The more educational facilities, the more knowledge out there. There are over 8 million in NYC. How many know about the burial ground?
- Yes, I think all things are possible. There could be an extension in different areas — possibly a research center dealing with the genealogy of the occupants — exclusive biography of some sort.
- Not presently
- Current plans seem sufficient
- Yes see 3
- Another facility, outside of the visitor center, is not needed so long as the space can accommodate a growth in visitors.
- Yes!
- Yes — will need more space
- Yes, it is always important to learn our great history and to ensure that our children have a wealth of knowledge so that they can appreciate the sacrifices of our ancestors.
- Not particularly — focusing on the new visitor center makes sense to me
- Possibly if the space seems small? Or have an outpost somewhere else in the city in addition? But it seems the devoting resources to the visitor’s center on site is most important.
- No, not at this time. Let people learn about this one first. Then move on the next stage.
- Regional centers to encourage visitors in other part of the US.
- The current site is not easily accessible, located, or visible. This should be a huge attraction to tourists. So yes, perhaps another facility in a well-trafficked part of the city and one in Harlem would be nice.
- Not sure. Let’s see how this great new center operates and if anything needs to be remedied.

**We recognize that not all who are interested in the African Burial Ground will be able to visit the National Monument in person.**

**5) How could we make the African Burial Ground accessible and meaningful to a student in Nigeria or a grandmother in Paris?**

- More innovative web presence than currently exists. Develop webcasts, web programming, student/scholarly competitions related to the Pan African experience
- Internet
- The internet is a tool to get information disseminated locally as well as worldwide. In depth video presentations and live workshops that will be of interest to young students as well as to older population. For example: a workshop/lesson could be presented on “dance” techniques of the people buried at the monument.
- Tara Morrison, et al, should be funded to first travel nationally then internationally to personally foster relationships with organizations, institutions, and the public. Academic public libraries should be given a video where Tara and other rangers provide a video tour of the ABG and OPEI. Then a web streamed “exhibit” should be set up. But first, in person introduction ABG should happen.
- 1. Develop a traveling exhibit like the one the NY Historical Society had for its Slavery in New York exhibit.  
2. Develop the web site (I have not yet visited it so don’t know what’s on it) to serve people outside the U.S. This may involve lots of pictures and multiple languages.
- Create internet “walking tours” = cyber tours as done for real estate for a select audience. Oversee as must remember that a burial ground is not a comedy central must see while on a trip to NY. Many people may still have conflict res of spirits, diseases, and spells associated with the dead and voodoo.
- I assume there is a website
- Fund a monument or research center in the Caribbean and maybe West Africa, where many of the remains were traced to. I’ll reiterate myself it needs to be more International!
- You can reach others by streaming and have recorded programs on the African Burial website. Also invite them to put Burial Ground on their itinerary when visiting NYC and surrounding area.
- Internet videos of some aspects of tours, lots of pictures on the website, accuse through mailings, brochures, even some established trips to schools/institutions in these (other) countries
- The internet — books — magazines etc. TV
- Continue to develop the website to be highly interactive. Occasionally podcasts of on-site forums or programs might also be offered.
- Virtual tour 360 degrees like Brooklyn Botanical Gardens site, student/class/school video chat/interviews; a highly interactive web site, if possible an email postcard station where you can write or record a short video and send it to an email address.
- An interactive website including video would be ideal. If budgets allow, a possible road show would be beneficial where staff members could discuss the burial ground.
- Via internet!
- Through a terrific website and by linking to other sites world wide that also convey information about slavery and its implications to us all.
- More advertisements is needed in order to spread the word here and abroad.
- Having one website rather than two (one park services one, one ABG one) would simplify things. Also something that connects/ links to the archival holding at the Schomburg. And, of course, lots of pictures and videos.
- Internet → a website w/ videos, lots of information in text format, and possibly digitized library/archival resources. Also — I would LOVE to see an exhibition catalogue full of images and scholarly/journalistic essays be published and circulated to libraries, bookstores, and cultural centers worldwide.
- If possible, maybe ask visitors to consider sponsoring a family who wants to experience the visit at ABGNM, or maybe a donation box just for this purpose.
- Produce low-cost or free DVDs or CDS per public or foundation grants
- Internet. Use your website, social networks (Facebook, Myspace, ect). Video tape a tour and upload it to all your online media. You can create a virtual experience that will speak to many more people than those who can see it in person.
- DVDs, films, etc.
- Say to that person, look at Barack Obama for how the history and present relate!

**Partnerships are key to the success of NPS sites; they help foster the protection, preservation, understanding and appreciation of our most significant places.**

**6) Which local, national and global communities, organizations, businesses and civic groups do you think the African Burial Ground should partner with?**

- All churches in the metropolitan community
- Intersections International (see website), churches, churches, churches!
- Smithsonian Institution, South Street Seaport, Museum of the City of NY, Municipal Art Society, National Trust for Historical Preservation, Trinity Church, Howard University, Lehman College
- Every effort should be given to partnering with as many businesses, organizations, and civic groups. In addition, an attempt should be made to connect with a celebrity (Oprah, for example) to do a segment on the site and the culture of the people interred here.
- Be sure to identify educational leaders (NOT merely administrators) in DOE's office of Adult and Continuing Education, whose "client" are often the very parents we need to inform.
- Museum of Tolerance, Holocaust Museum, California Af. Am. Museum (all African Am. Museums across the country); Africana/Af Am/American studies programs at college across the country; the African American National Press (Los Angeles Sentinel, Atlanta Daily World, etc.). Partnerships w/other ethnic-oriented communities/organizations.
- The NAACP, ASCAAC — The Society for the Study of African American Family Life (maybe someone will know what I mean), Black reparations groups who have a health component and can advocate for the elimination of Black health disparities based partly on the burial ground discoveries.
- Smithsonian, DC, African American Museum, Baltimore, Students of Heredity, DNA, and Genes Study
- There are very few people of African descent in the immediate vicinity — more in my apartment house of 62 units. Maybe reach out to Independence Plaza or Southbridge.
- Pan Africa is one that comes to mind
- All those who have a serious interest in preserving this historical site ex, museum, church, learning institute
- The mayor, governor, other local/state assembly persons, senators; along with schools (public/other), museums, small businesses, Screen Actors Guild, etc.
- Pan African, NAACP, Better Business Association, Local community orgs.
- Any and all that are willing, particularly those involved in cultural and educational efforts
- National Urban league, all African American fraternities and sororities, all Triboro library systems, all churches, all community centers, all youth organizations, all independent schools, all social networking groups.
- Partnering with historically black fraternities and sororities: Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, etc.
- New York City, foundations! (PBS)
- Professional groups that an advocate for the site as well as communities who have expressed interest globally. Does the UN have any depts. that focus on slavery? And other sites that have been found that share similarities.
- The NY State Insurance is actively involved in honoring all the different heritages of our country.
- There are a number of small museums across the country that focus on funeral and burial customs. A dialogue with them could be great!
- National association of black social workers; NAACP; National Urban League; Schomburg Center
- Schools (elementary to university), teacher associations, student associations, city/neighborhood cultural centers.
- WHO (World Health Organization)
- With local libraries, as well as reading, writing, poetry and performing arts groups, suck as the Manhattan Theater Group! Yes, they work with teachers and students at Rikers to put on plays.



**7) What types of partnerships — educational, philanthropic, tourism, etc. — should the NPS pursue?**

- Educational and tourism
- Connections with and listings in Tourism publications; the NPS needs to get it's entire operation in gear.
- I see this monument partnering educational organizations as well as with well-connected philanthropic individuals and groups.
- Each and every communications designee (at large educational, historical, and religious organizations) to be an active link with NPS.
- Foundations and organizations headed by the following celebrities: Don Cheadle, Isaiah Washington, George Clooney, Magic Johnson, Russell Simmons, etc. Other philanthropic organizations: McDonalds, Target, etc. Partnership w/academic and trade publishers
- Educational: NYC Schools, Museum of Natural History, Tourism for a stop in Lower Manhattan, Canal Street to South Street Walking Tour
- How about to local schools?
- All colleges and Universities. If possible, nationally and if possible, globally.
- As stated, definitely public schools (teachers), bus tour companies (site seeing), charitable organizations like churches, the executives/presidents of corporations, etc.
- UNCF, Today's Young Millionaires
- It will be natural for student groups to be included, but it would be amazing to include adult education groups and social network groups, ie, meetup, linkedin
- All of the above. No resource should go untouched.
- Certainly consider expanding its hours
- USA Government grants!
- All will be needed to keep the monument viable
- All of the above!
- Slave Route Project in West Africa; Studeio Museum in Harlem; NYC Historic society; any number of African-American history museums/cultural centers in the US, especially in the South — i.e., River Road African American Museum in Donaldson, LA. There are several publications on African American heritage tourism that could be useful. Very important, though, not to limit its interpretation as being only important within one ethnic history. The implications are huge for the reinterpretation of American History. Smithsonian? LES Tenement Museum?
- Promote famous Afro American birthday events; request NYC to promote African burial ground in their tourist brochure.
- Anything and everything that doesn't take focus away from the purpose of the monument. All partnerships should be with parties that will benefit the memorial. Contact info: LaShawnda Jones, [ldjonsey@yahoo.com](mailto:ldjonsey@yahoo.com)
- Tourism, etc.
- See above



**The African Burial Ground National Monument is a .34 acre site with the 7 acre National Historic Landmark designated in 1993 and within the larger New York City African Burial Ground and the Commons Historic District designated in 1991.**

**8) How should the NPS best work with others to ensure protection of the entire African Burial Ground?**

- Partner with local colleges
- Pursue a larger legislative designation (New Orleans Jazz)
- Again, there must be extensive outreach in the surround areas... working with private and public entities in order to advance, preserve, and protect the sanctity of the monument
- Continued and increased communication re: the sacred/spiritual importance and significance, historical (national and world) significance of the site & the monument. More sacred events on site during key dates (Juneteenth, July 4, date of abolishment of slavery, etc.) Our president can help with this.
- NPS must work with NY City and other private citizens of African American in politics, sports, music, where African Americans have considerable influence.
- Make sure the remaining area is not built over the same way over 90% of the burial ground has been. The grounds should be checked regularly to protect the remains that were not exacted.
- The local police department, other security officials... See what's the mayor's/other's plans are for security of this institution
- With the federal govt
- Perhaps kiosks could be developed to educated others in various parts of the city ie, throughout the NYPL system, in Central Park, at Empire State Building, at Columbus Circle, etc.
- Make the entire National Historic Landmark area to feature additional monuments
- Publications, internet, monthly news letters
- By keeping an eye on the activities on the other acres. Also, is there maybe a way to install a permanent market of the burial grounds borders within the city? Something like signs on the corners or a bath one could walk along the perimeter?
- Pursue legislation to protect African/Af-American burial grounds that is similar to legislation that protects Native American burial grounds?
- Have community leaders, communities come together to offer suggestions.
- Ensure landmark status; advertise in national publications of historical value
- Cameras on the grounds as you have; cameras of 26 Federal Plaza and 290 Broadway
- Wow, no idea

**9) Do you have suggestions on how we can raise public awareness that the burial ground extends beyond the National Monument?**

- Public art projects, displays, and signage. Should be incorporated within the burial grounds historic perimeter.
- Plaques placed on the sidewalks should direct our attention to the monument site
- Signage/exhibits in the area
- Public awareness is vital to the monument. Without extended outreach to community organizations, churches, senior centers, and schools. This national monument will die from lack of interest. Workshops sponsored at other locations throughout the City would be of benefit.
- I'm a producer and TV writer (WGAW member) and published journalist and photographer. Would love to write an extended commercial that would be educational/entertaining/informative, to be broadcast (NY-1, PBS, select major networks, cable.) Appeal to TV moguls (Sean Combs, etc) who can "buy" the airtime and get it on the air. I wrote a speech for President (then Senator) Obama in 2004 for a TV Academy event so I know he might agree to be in it, if only briefly. Contact information: Sharon D. Johnson (WGAW), [fiveteen@juno.com](mailto:fiveteen@juno.com), [www.linkedin.com/in/sharondjohnson515](http://www.linkedin.com/in/sharondjohnson515)
- We got a flyer at the Schomburg — that was helpful. Perhaps a billboard or bus ad campaign in New York.
- Mentioned prior: Tourism stops, schools/universities, history talks, documentaries
- Some maps and signs of NYC landmark preservation commission agrees.
- Yes more of this information by research and put in school's textbook (very significant) and college and universities' study books.
- Place newsletters in places where people visit/work, schools, shopping centers, malls...
- Advertisement from TV, newspaper, and a constant reminder to the public of what has happened on this site
- Continue to publish map which indicates full boundary outline in addition to preserved site.
- Email print/video campaign with all organizations in answer 6.
- An aggressive public relations and marketing program is needed
- Publications, internet, monthly newsletters
- Signage, events, linking to other sites in the city and country and globally. Lobby for inclusion of what this site is and means in public school curriculum.
- Awareness can be expanded through distribution of materials to schools, churches, etc.
- See above
- Signage demarcating edge that includes interpretive info?
- By handing out flyers on the trains/buses co-workers, family members and friends. Place flyers on your community boards.
- Develop updates to share in city museums
- In booklets, pamphlets, short subjects, etc.
- Provide programs with various artist, poetry, and performing arts groups and clubs

**We value your participation.**

**10) How do you believe you can best participate in the development and implementation of the African Burial Ground General Management Plan?**

- Comment on plans
- Include the scientific community in the conversation (geneticists, genealogists, biologists, forensics, etc.); including samples of different African languages so people can hear what the words people spoke sounded like
- I am a writer/editor and public relations specialist who would love to lend a hand in promoting the project throughout the US
- See #9
- Within time constraints, I can volunteer to conduct tours after training or hosting for affairs
- I am a licensed tour guide and I will keep this in mind. Most of my tourists interested in city history never even think of the Africans brought to New Amsterdam and New York and New Orange.
- Have more gatherings at 290 Broadway (or I suggest outside to avoid security!) weather permitting.
- Teach my students about the ABG — be a part of the dissemination of information/take my students on tours yearly...
- Volunteer time
- Stay informed and pass the word (which I am endeavoring to do).
- Sound board, community voice
- Forwarding awareness to protect the burial ground by locating funds
- I would be willing to volunteer in any aspect as necessary
- Open houses like this and town-hall style meetings are great!
- I am not usually based out of NY → having access to opportunities like this open house/comment form that are available over email/internet would be very helpful.
- By spreading the word about the plan.
- Let public know about events and any revision via email
- Attend meetings, etc
- I write poetry and have award winning them related poetry to share: Stephen Cepot 212-637-4411  
EPA employee

**11) Are there other ideas or comments you would like the planning team to consider as we all embark on this planning effort?**

- Greenery! Inclusion of vegetation from different parts of Africa in a green space (green house). Info about ceremonial, medicinal food plants as well as samples (where possible).
- Are brochures included in the NYC sites/sights tour info found in places like Trinity Church, museum of NY (Wall St.)? I don't remember seeing them.
- Proposals to possible sponsors — bands, insurance co., whoever supports the other glossy, colorful brochures for sights of interest
- If this monument is to be taken seriously, major funding must be garnered in order to advertise this project whether on TV, movie theaters, churches and/or schools.
- Also, see #9. ABG is a national monument, yet the nation as a whole seems disengaged from it, its importance, and its relation and meaning the entire country (and beyond.) ABG/NPS needs to embark on a national outreach campaign to educate about post-traumatic slave syndrome, the history of slavery, ABG's existence and purpose. Use direct mailing, press, media, personal outreach. Full court press.
- I would like you to consider:
  1. Development of 2 children's books that could educate children through libraries across America. I suggest 2 levels: one targeting age 4-6, another targeting ages 9-12. So it would be 2 books. The books would be about the Burial Grounds plus tips on preserving their family histories.
- Ask Spike Lee to make a movie/documentary. Tell him "Myrna" is asking him to do so.
- Keep in my this is one of the few black sites that they can link to their past its sacred. It should be looked after, cared and funded just the same as Holocaust Museums, Asian Museums, and all museums.
- I hope your vendor site will have authentic items for purchase — that pertain only to the ABG. Ex: handcrafted by original people.
- No.
- Minimize any activities outside mission and work towards solidarity in all efforts! Courage!
- I encourage the planning team to be as transparent and authentic as possible
- The African Burial Ground should to be enjoyable experience, and source of information to learn
- You're doing a wonderful job! Very exciting!
- I really appreciate the way that the exhibition/interp center/publicity up to this poin emphasizes both the major significance of the burial ground, its discovery and its preservations for African American history/communities, but also the city of NY, understanding of slavery labor, migration, and American history reinterpretation more generally.
- Bring in more educational instructors, like Ms. Angeli Rasbury. My daughter has attended her writing program since she was 7 years old and now she is 12. I'm positive she would be a much added access to the educational development.
- Encourage congressional funding and seek foundation grants per more publicity and future expansion.
- Join the churches, Blacks have always been connected with religious organizations